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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS IN THEIR ASSISTANCE TO NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/48/50.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/16 of 16 November 1992 concerning the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. In paragraph 22 of that resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in implementation of the relevant resolutions, including that resolution, since the circulation of his previous report.

2. In a letter dated 3 March 1993, the Secretary-General transmitted the text of the resolution to the executive heads of the following specialized agencies and international institutions forming part of or associated with the United Nations, and invited them to submit the information requested for inclusion in the report referred to in the above paragraph:

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

World Food Programme (WFP)

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

World Health Organization (WHO)

World Bank

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

League of Arab States (LAS)

Organization of African Unity (OAU)

Organization of American States (OAS)

3. Given below are the summaries of the replies received by the Secretary-General from the international organizations concerned in response to the above-mentioned letters, as well as information received by the Secretary-General from the organizations concerned on action taken or envisaged by them in the implementation of the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 47/22 of 25 November 1992 relating to cooperation and coordination of the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations in their assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories.

4. Summaries of additional replies received, together with such further information as may become available on relevant activities undertaken by the organizations concerned during the year, will be circulated in addenda to the present report.

5. In addition, the Secretary-General transmitted the text of the resolution to the various departments and other units of the United Nations Secretariat. Information received in that regard is also set out in the report.

II. REPLIES FROM THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FORMING PART OF OR ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

[Original: English]

[21 May 1993]

In its role as focal point for specific action at the global level in favour of island developing countries, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) monitors economic and social trends in the 50 countries concerned, using data available from international sources. Ten of these countries are Non-Self-Governing Territories: Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Palau), Turks and Caicos Islands, and United States Virgin Islands.

The UNCTAD secretariat used the above-mentioned data to draw up the report of the Secretary-General on the specific problems and needs of island developing countries (A/47/414). A group of experts, convened by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on 15 and 16 July 1992 to assist in the preparation of the report, noted that growth trends in the 1980s in island developing countries had been very volatile and that the sustainability of such growth was questionable, given emerging trends in the international economy and the mounting environmental pressures. The vulnerabilities of the island developing countries are based on the extreme openness and dependence of their economies, their susceptibility to natural disasters, their low resilience (in the sense of their capacity to

recover from shocks), and the difficulty they face in achieving long-term sustainable development when their economic options are limited and the environmental assets on which key economic sectors depend are under pressure. The report noted that these factors apply to the very small island developing countries, including the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The UNCTAD secretariat's Automated SYstem for CUstoms DAta (ASYCUDA), which was set up within the framework of its programme on trade facilitation in the area of customs automation and reform, has been installed or is being implemented in a number of Non-Self-Governing-Territories, including Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands.

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

[Original: English]

[6 May 1993]

The World Food Programme has taken due note of General Assembly resolution 47/22 of 25 November 1992, and to the requests contained in operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 6, but wishes to advise that it has no comments to offer thereon.

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

[Original: English]

[21 April 1993]

The contribution of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to the report of the Secretary-General regarding General Assembly resolution 47/16 of 16 November 1992 is outlined below.

Although the work programme of ECLAC is not oriented to the implementation of activities directly related to the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, it tends to enable the Caribbean colonial territories to participate in programmes and other activities of the United Nations system.

The secretariat of the Caribbean Development Cooperation Committee (CDCC) of ECLAC has established a Working Group on Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs) to provide greater thrust to its efforts in this respect. Currently, the working group is chaired by the United States Virgin Islands.

Legislative authority for the participation of NICCs in programmes and activities of the United Nations system is based on various resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and CDCC. The interests and expectations of NICCs in these respects mainly relate to:

1. Participation in the regular and extrabudgetary ECLAC/CDCC work programmes;

2. Associate membership or observer status in specialized agencies of the United Nations;

3. Participation in special international conferences, programmes of technical organs, as well as particular relevant meetings of the United Nations General Assembly.

Recent activities undertaken by the Working Group, include the attainment of observer status for associate members of regional Economic Commissions in various activities of the United Nations, the accession of several members of the Working Group to observer status in the Alliance of Small Islands States (AOSIS) at the United Nations and one member of the Working Group as a full member of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST).

Currently, the Working Group is seeking to obtain observer status in the United Nations Conference on Population and Development and its preparatory meetings, and in the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small-Island Developing States, to be held in Barbados in 1994.

At the thirteenth session of CDCC, held in Grenada in 1992, the meeting noted the effort and success of the Working Group in the direction of greater participation of NICCs, but referred to less success in gaining greater access to the resources of the United Nations system. However, it was believed that success in participating in various forums might be the key to the eventual securing of access of NICCs to those resources.

The meeting noted that the efforts of the Working Group had been instrumental in obtaining observer status in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and attributed the receipt of resources for environmental protection to this participation.

Attention may be drawn to a number of resolutions made at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly which reflected explicit attention to the concerns of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The report of the Secretary-General identified specific actions of the Governing Council of the Economic and Social Council, which had presented a comprehensive set of figures on the resources of the United Nations system utilized for activities concerning those NICCs which are Non-Self-Governing Territories. The report also recommended that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in its biennial report, should examine the special concerns and problems of those territories.

The commitment of ECLAC/CDCC to the concerns of NICCs is reflected by its integration of the issues of NICCs into the mainstream of the proposed ECLAC/CDCC work programme for 1994-1995. The secretariat has prepared a working paper on the matter of possible widening of the Caribbean, based upon the proposal of the independent West Indian Commission, an initiative, which is considered to be extremely important to NICCs.

It may be noted that information on the type of approach made by ECLAC to the United Nations system, with a view to gaining wider access to resources had been carefully articulated in the recommendations emanating from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

Attention may be drawn to the possibility of establishing linkages between non-independent countries in the Caribbean and Pacific through the regional commissions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and ECLAC.

The Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is well placed to establish such linkages, since the Non-Self-Governing Territories are primarily located in the Caribbean and Pacific regions. The Working Group could examine that possibility and use the Pacific forum, the Caribbean Community and ECLAC/CDCC to collaborate in establishing linkages between both areas.

The possibility also exists in the use of the AOSIS framework in furthering the cause of NICCs. However, the narrow focus of AOSIS on environmental issues would have to be taken into account.

Various similarities exist in characteristics of NICCs as associate members and the independent member countries of CDCC with respect to the problems of small island developing countries, and there is progress at the move towards closer linkages among these countries relative to the possible enhanced access to United Nations programmes and activities.

...

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat is committed to increasing its efforts to open avenues and expand its role and resources with regard to assisting the participation of NICCs in various United Nations forums, in conformity with the mandate established by the General Assembly, and decisions and resolutions of CDCC.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

[Original: English]

[20 April 1993]

Technical cooperation projects and other activities carried out with International Labour Organisation (ILO) involvement since 1985 in non-metropolitan territories

A. Caribbean multi-island projects

In addition to the activities in the individual islands listed below, several of the non-metropolitan Territories have also participated in and/or benefited from certain multi-island projects of ILO in the Caribbean:

(i) Vocational training

Montserrat benefited from participation in CAR/87/003: Multi-Island Technical and Vocational Education Phase II, which had commenced in 1988 as a bridging project ("Bridging Operation for Consolidation of UNDP/UNESCO/ILO Multi-Island Project"). The successor to the bridging project is the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) project: Development of Integrated Systems, Strategies, Programmes and Related Activities in the Eastern Caribbean countries. Both Montserrat and the British Virgin Islands fall within the geographical coverage of the CDB project.

(ii) International Labour Standards

In 1988, Anguilla, ..., Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat participated in the ILO Third Caribbean Regional Seminar on International Labour Standards.

(iii) Cooperative Training and Development

In 1992, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands participated in the ILO Caribbean Subregional Workshop for Cooperatives Education and Training Officers.

B. Anguilla

ANL/84/003: Actuarial Review of the Social Security Scheme

The development objective of this project was to enhance and preserve the social well-being of the people of Anguilla by assisting the newly established Social Security Scheme to (a) build a firm foundation for its current benefit plan and the future widening of the scope of coverage to include the entire working population; and (b) effect a measure of income distribution and a more equitable social insurance structure by a system of scaled contributions and benefits under the scheme.

The immediate objectives were to (a) undertake an actuarial evaluation of the existing scheme and make recommendations; (b) plan and introduce proper

operating procedures, establish an adequate system of records, and provide guidance in applying the legislative provisions; and (c) train and equip staff to administer the Scheme.

The most significant activities under this project were the funding of an actuary for four months, the funding of one expert in social security planning and administration for one and one half months.

Also being funded under this project is the Third Actuarial Review of the Social Security Scheme. This review has been executed by ILO headquarters' personnel. It might be noted that on-the-job training for relevant employees of the Scheme was undertaken as an element of the review.

ANL/88/002: Labour Administration

The Regional Labour Administration Adviser has been providing backstopping services in respect of a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) labour administration project. Most recently, in 1992 the Caribbean Labour Administration Centre (CLAC) also submitted recommendations on a severance payment scheme for Anguilla.

C. Bermuda

Apart from missions by ILO Regional Advisers, there has been no direct ILO activity in Bermuda during the period under review. However, as indicated above, Bermuda has participated in at least one Multi-Island project: The ILO Third Caribbean Regional Seminar on International Labour Standards, held during 1988.

D. British Virgin Islands

During 1989, the Regional Labour Administration Adviser (ILO/CLAC) undertook a mission to the British Virgin Islands to provide advice with respect to proposed amendments to the Labour Code. CLAC continues to provide technical advisory services to the Government of the British Virgin Islands in connection with the revision of the Labour Code Ordinance 1975. Following tripartite discussions, a draft bill to amend the Code was prepared and submitted to the Government for consideration in 1991. CLAC has also rendered assistance in the preparation of job descriptions for various posts in the Labour Department.

E. Cayman Islands

(a) Cayman Islands: Draft Labour Code;

A Draft Labour Code was prepared by the ILO Regional Adviser for Labour Legislation and Industrial Relations and submitted for consideration of the Cayman Islands Government in January 1985.

(b) National Workshop on Management Development;

The ILO Caribbean Office funded a National Workshop on Management Development in the Cayman Islands in 1988.

(c) Vocational rehabilitation of disabled persons;

A consultancy in the Organization of Sheltered Workshops for the Disabled was executed during the period from 13 November to 12 December 1986.

(d) Assistance in the execution of a labour force survey.

In 1991, the Regional Adviser in Manpower Planning and Labour Market Policies provided technical advice with respect to the preparation of the instruments of a labour force survey to be executed in 1992 in the Cayman Islands. The Adviser's input was funded from a UNDP Project CAY/90/004 Socio-Economic and Demographic Data Collection for Development and Planning.

F. Montserrat

(a) Social Security;

Considerable work in the field of social security has been done by ILO in this territory. Indeed, the Social Security Fund was initially set up with technical assistance from ILO. Other activities have included:

(i) Review of the Proposed Extension of the Scheme to Civil Servants;

In February 1987, ILO recruited a consultant to undertake a review and make recommendations to the Government with respect to the proposed incorporation of civil servants into the National Social Security Scheme.

(ii) Financial and actuarial report on the Social Security Scheme;

In 1991, ILO provided the services of an actuarial consultant to undertake the first actuarial valuation of the Social Security Scheme. ILO also funded in that year, an Actuarial Assessment of Changes in the Benefit Structure of the Public Service Scheme.

(iii) Establishment of a National Health Insurance Scheme;

The establishment of the National Health Insurance Scheme was proposed in the 1988 budget of the Government of Montserrat. ILO provided the services of a consultant to undertake a feasibility study over the period from 1 to 26 March 1991. The consultant's report was submitted for the consideration of the Government.

(b) Occupational safety and health legislation;

In 1990, the Government of Montserrat requested assistance with respect to the review of its occupational safety and health legislation. Under the internship programme of the Faculty of Law, University of Toronto, a preliminary report on the situation was prepared. The terms of reference for the assignment of the law intern were "to undertake research, and consultations with the Government and social partners of Montserrat with the objective of establishing an acceptable and appropriate framework for occupational safety and health legislation in that country".

(c) MOT/88/002: Repair and Maintenance Project at the Montserrat Technical College.

The objectives of this UNDP-assisted project are to assist the Government of Montserrat in the repair, rehabilitation and maintenance of workshop equipment, mechanical and electrical/electronic and the establishment of a maintenance unit capable of repairs and maintenance of a variety of mechanical/electrical/electronic equipment. The project is being implemented by ILO under the direct supervision of the Regional Technical Adviser.

G. Palau

Technical cooperation projects between ILO and Palau have been in the areas of Trade Training, Testing and Certification - RAS/86/104; and Comprehensive Survey of Population, Employment and Human Resources - RAS/86/P62.

The Regional Adviser on Vocational Training Systems visited Palau in May 1990 to discuss a project formulation framework which had been delivered earlier by the Director of the ILO Suva office regarding the possible development of a National System of Vocational Training. Official comment from Palau is being awaited by ILO.

In February 1991, the regional Adviser on Migrant Workers visited Palau in response to a request for advice regarding alien workers and the formulation of appropriate policies and resources on immigration. To date no other requests have been received.

The only regional activities have been in the way of the above-mentioned technical cooperation projects.

An attachment was arranged in June 1992 for a labour office to visit the Department of Industrial Relations at Canberra and the Department of Employment, Education and Training at Brisbane, Australia. This was carried out successfully.

H. Tokelau

Tokelau was included in the subregional project RAS/86/104 "Trade Training and Testing Certification Scheme", owing to the small size of the territory and the impracticality of setting up the scheme there, however, three training officers from the three community training centres were given training fellowships under the project to attend training programmes at other national centres within the region.

I. Turks and Caicos Islands

(a) Vocational training;

In the field of vocational training, the following two activities have been executed:

(i) TCI/84/003: Vocational training for the Turks and Caicos Islands - Phase I;

The immediate objective was to provide selected technical staff of the Ministry of Works, Utilities and Labour and of other government services with specific skills required for maintenance and repair of equipment, machines and installations. This project, along with TCI/82/002: Technical Training in the Public Works Sector, has since been completed. Under this project two fellowships were awarded.

(ii) Upholstery training;

Using regular budget technical cooperation resources, a consultant was contracted to assist the Ministry of Social Services in the establishment of a Unit to prepare students for the Caribbean Examinations Council examinations in the field of upholstery. The one week mission was undertaken during the period from 18 to 25 October 1986.

(b) Social security.

TCI/90/001: Establishment of a National Insurance Scheme

This project provides for the establishment of a national insurance scheme which would cover all employed or self-employed persons between the ages of 16 and 65 and would include three operational branches: long-term benefit branch, short-term benefit branch and employment injury benefit branch. The legislative and organizational requirements for the operation of the Scheme are now in place. An extension of the project to allow for the fielding of an administrative expert to provide assistance when the actual payment of benefits commences has been arranged. Under this project the attachment of the Director-designate of the National Insurance Scheme to the Bahamas National Insurance Board was arranged.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

[Original: English]

[21 May 1993]

Asia and the Pacific

A total of four technical assistance projects are being executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in the South Pacific, covering some countries still under colonial rule, such as Tokelau.

The assistance concentrates on root-crop development, was well as forestry, livestock and fisheries. The projects are:

1. RAS/86/034 - Root Crop Development Programme
2. RAS/86/039 - Livestock Development
3. RAS/89/039 - Fisheries Development
4. RAS/92/560 - Forestry Development Programme (AA)
   (Continuation of activities of project RAS/86/036 "Forestry Development" completed in 1992)

Latin America and the Caribbean

FAO has been involved in providing assistance to the following non-independent small Territories in the Caribbean: Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands. Since these Territories are non-members of FAO, such assistance has either been provided at the request of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) or the Caribbean Community secretariat (CARICOM).

In August 1988, FAO participated in a Joint UNDP/FAO mission to Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and Montserrat to assess their agricultural sectors and identify priority projects which these Governments would like FAO to execute.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo in 1989, FAO mounted a mission to assess the damage in affected territories, including Montserrat and British Virgin Islands. The early information generated by the mission was useful in alerting the donor community to the severity of the damage in these territories and mobilizing urgent assistance.

...

Assistance to Montserrat has been provided through projects MOT/86/007 "Forestry Development" and MOT/90/002 "Rehabilitation to the Agricultural Sector".

As regards Turks and Caicos Islands, FAO has provided the services of a consultant for the project TCI/89/002 "Integrated Development Planning".

Anguilla together with Montserrat will benefit from a regional project on "Coordination of the Eradication of Amblyomma variegatum and Strengthening of Veterinary Services" for which both FAO and the Caribbean Community secretariat (CARICOM) are looking for funding. Initial activities are being carried out under projects TCP/RLAC/0163 "Surveillance and control of Amblyomma variegatum tick" and GCP/RLA/105/BEL "Programme for the Eradication of the Amblyomma variegatum for the Caribbean".

Delegates from the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat have participated in several meetings held at the subregional level to discuss the draft "Caribbean Community Agreement on Cooperation in the Development and Management of the Living Resources of the Exclusive Economic Zone", prepared with the assistance of project FAO/TCP/RLA/8962 "Legal Aspects of a Common Policy on Access to Exclusive Economic Zone".

The participation of Montserrat in the project CAR/92/002 "Use of Video based Communication and Training System in Rural Development" is under review by the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, UNDP and FAO.

As regards Bermuda, Cayman Islands, and the rest of small Territories in the Caribbean, FAO has been invited by UNDP from time to time to review and comment on the Country Programme Management Plans, as well as on the draft Country Programmes for the Fifth Cycle.

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

[Original: English]

[9 April 1993]

With regard to General Assembly resolution 47/16 of 16 November 1992 concerning the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has no specific comments to provide in connection with the above-mentioned subject.

WORLD BANK

[Original: English]

[9 April 1993]

With reference to General Assembly resolution 47/16 of 16 November 1992 concerning the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, the colonial Territories listed are not members of the Bank and there are currently no Bank operations in process or planned.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

[Original: English]

[13 April 1993]

Since General Assembly resolution 47/16 of 16 November 1992 concerning Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United nations does not fall within the immediate operations of the International Monetary Fund, it has no information to proffer.

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

[Original: English]

[27 May 1993]

General Assembly resolutions 47/16 of 16 November 1992 and 47/22 of 25 November 1992 will be brought to the attention of the Executive Council of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which will meet in Geneva in June 1993.

You may wish to note that WMO has no specific development programmes for the Non-Self Governing-Territories at reference.

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

[Original: English]

[10 May 1993]

General Assembly resolution 47/22 of 25 November 1992 will be brought to the attention of the governing bodies of the World Intellectual Property Organization when they meet in full session in September 1993.